

# News



New Jersey  
**Office of the Attorney General**

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY

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DIVISION OF

**New Jersey State Police**

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## **Use Caution When Dealing With Flood-Damaged Electrical Equipment**

### ***Tips from the New Jersey State Police's Office of Emergency Management***

After suffering damages caused by flooding, it may be instinctive to immediately begin the cleanup process. The New Jersey State Police's Office of Emergency Management would like to remind New Jersey residents to use caution when dealing with water-damaged electrical equipment. Electrical wiring and equipment that has been exposed to flood waters can be extremely dangerous if not examined and repaired or replaced.

It may not be initially apparent that wiring or fixtures are damaged. Flood waters can cause corrosion and sediment and other contaminants can be lodged in the equipment.

New Jersey standards require that:

- All breaker panelboards, breakers, fuses, disconnect switches, controllers, receptacles, switches, light fixtures, electric heaters that have been submerged must be replaced;
- All electrical equipment, switchgear, motor control centers, boilers and boiler controls, electric motors, transformers and appliances such as water heaters, ovens, ranges, and dishwashers that have been submerged need to be replaced or repaired by the original manufacturer or an approved representative;
- Electrical wiring may require replacement depending on the type of wire or cable and what application it was listed for;
- Splices and termination must be checked to make sure they are in compliance with local requirements.

The electrical system may also be checked and certified by a licensed electrical contractor to assure the system will be safe to energize. If you have any questions about your electrical system, call your local electrical contractor, or a city or state electrical inspector.

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